

REMARKS

By this Response, claims 40, 51, 53, 63, 65, 66, 70, 71, 72, and 73 have been amended. Claims 50 and 62 have been canceled due to their incorporation into independent claim 40. Claims 75-96 are withdrawn from consideration and claims 1-39 have been previously canceled. Claims 40-49, 51-61, and 63-96 are pending. Support for the amendments to claims 40 and 62 and added claim 97 can be found throughout the as-filed specification and claims. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has objected to claim 65 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicates that claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response, the Examiner's indication is acknowledged, however, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 40 is patentable on its own merits for reasons pointed out below.

Rejection of Claims 40-41 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Mohr* (U.S. Patent No. 4,651,433). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The subject matter of independent claim 40 is directed to a sensor for sensing an interface pressure between two bodies, the sensor comprising: at least two intercommunicating detection zones, each detection zone being formed inside an

inflatable envelope for interposing between said bodies and having two opposite regions spaced apart from one another by an amount that depends on an interface pressure between said bodies, each detection zone comprising a detector arranged to deliver information associated with the spacing between the opposite regions, wherein the detector comprises a portion of an element that is common to a plurality of the detection zones, and an element specific to the respective detection zone; and a pressure generator configured to deliver a fluid into the detection zones at a pressure that varies in time.

It is the Examiner's position that *Mohr* discloses all limitations of claim 40.

To the contrary, it is respectfully submitted that *Mohr* fails to teach each and every element of the claimed invention. Specifically, *Mohr* discloses a leveling device having two pressure cells which are each associated with a strain gauge pressure sensor located in a conduit interconnecting both pressure cells.

The pressure detecting zones comprising the strain gauge sensors of *Mohr* are not formed inside an inflatable envelope, do not comprise two opposite regions spaced apart from each other by an amount that depend on an interface pressure, and do not comprise a pressure generator that delivers a pressure that varies in time.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 40-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants respectfully submit that claim 41 is in condition for allowance, at least by virtue of its dependency from allowable claim 40.

Rejection of Claims 40, 43-47, 49-53, 55-57, 60-63 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and

Rejection of Claims 41-42, 48, 54, 58-59, 64, 66-69, 73-74 Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 40, 43-47, 49-53, 55-57, 60-63 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Cosman* (U.S. Patent No. 4,593,703) and further rejected claims 41-42, 48, 54, 58-59, 64, 66-69, 73-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Cosman*. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The subject matter of independent claim 40 is described above.

It is respectfully submitted that *Cosman* discloses a pressure sensor that comprise at least one detection zone formed inside an inflatable envelope and provided with a detector of the inductive type. However, the detector of *Cosman* does not comprise a portion of an element which is common to a plurality of detection zones, and an element specific to the respective detection zone, and the disclosed device does not comprise a pressure generator connected to the detection zone and configured to deliver a fluid at a pressure which varies in time. In *Cosman*, the inflatable envelope contains a body fluid having a pressure that is not known. The value of this pressure is determined from the inductance of the detector located in the inflatable envelope.

In distinction, and according to the claimed invention, each inflatable envelope in each detection zone contains the fluid that is delivered by the pressure generator at a pressure that varies in time, and it is this pressure variation that permits to determine the interface pressure in each detection zone.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 40, 43-47, 49-53, 55-57, 60-63 under 35 U.S.C. §

102(b). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 43-47, 49-53, 55-57, 60, 61; and 63 are in condition for allowance, at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claims 40 and 62, respectively.

Further, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 41-42, 48, 54, 58-59, 64, 66-69, 73-74 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Applicants respectfully submit that claims 41-42, 48, 54, 58-59; and 64, 66-69, 73-74 are in condition for allowance, at least by virtue of their dependency from allowable claims 40 and 62, respectively.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that this claimed invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references applied against this application. Applicants therefore request the Examiner's reconsideration and reexamination of the application, and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If the Examiner believes that additional discussions or information might advance the prosecution of the instant application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below to expedite resolution of any outstanding issues.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 50-2961.

Respectfully submitted,

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